Support Price scheme of the Government and the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for Milling copra of Fair Average Quality (FAQ) has been fixed at Rs. 3300/- per qtl. and of Ball Copra (FAQ) at Rs. 3550/- per qtl. for 2001 season. A record quantity of 2.35 lakh tones of copra has been procured by National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED), a central nodal agency, as on 26.07.2001. To assist coconut cultivators, technologies have also been developed for diversification of coconut products to items like coconut cream, skimmed milk powder, packaging and preservation of coconut water, coconut chips, vinegar, etc.

Decline in groundnut production

1394. SHRI S. AGNIRAJ: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what has been the total production of groundnut in the country, State-wise, during the last three years;

(b) whether it is a fact that there is a sharp decline in its production;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) what steps arc being taken to improve production of groundnut in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) State-wise total production of groundnut during the last 3 years is given in the enclosed Statement *(see* below)

(b) and (c) There has been a increasing trend in the production of groundnut. However, during the year 1999-2000, the production of groundnut has declined due to severe drought in major groundnut growing States.

(d) In order to increase the production of groundnut in the country, a centrally sponsored Oilseeds Production Programme (OPP) is under implementation. Under the Programme financial

assistance is provided for various inputs by way of assistance to the growers in order to motivate them to take up the cultivation of groundnut on a large scale.

Statement

State-wise production of Groundnut during the last three years i.e. 1997-98, 1998-99 *and* 1999-2000

('000 tonnes)

State/UT	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
Andhra Pradesh	1155.80	2155.0	199.9
Bihar	6.3	6.1	6.4
Goa	2.5	2.5	2.2
Gujarat	2615.9	2577.8	717.5
Haryana	1.8	1.1	0.7
Himachal Pradesh	0.4	0.4	0.4
Jammu & Kashmir	0.2	—	—
Karnataka	714.0	1192.1	791.0
Kerala	8.6	7.0	5.4
Madhya Pradesh	253.8	267.5	252.8
Maharashtra	565.8	633.6	545.2
Nagaland	2.0	3.0	3.6
Orissa	89.5	72.2	72.2
Punjab	8.0	5.0	6.0
Rajasthan	368.9	362.0	264.0
Tamil Nadu	1408.0	1569.8	1384.6
Tripura	2.1	1.7	1.7
Uttar Pradesh	127.6	84.8	94.9
West Bengal	38.7	37.9	39.6
Pondicherry	2.2	2.1	1.9
All India	7372.1	8981.60	5310.4